

Issued: January 9, 2012

Effective: April 1, 2012

**Guidance Document 2012 – 1 – Motor Bus
\$500 Fee for Expired Vehicle Inspections**

The Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Passenger Transportation has recently reviewed policies and procedures regarding the implementation and enforcement of Act 432 of 1982 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act. Based on this review, changes are being made to the collection of the \$500 fee for expired inspections. This guidance document will explain how this provision of Act 432 will be enforced beginning April 1, 2012.

- 1) Any vehicle not passing a state approved inspection by the end of the month in which the inspection for that vehicle expires (i.e., 12 months after the date of the previous inspection) will be considered out of compliance with Section 16 of Act 432 of 1982. A vehicle that is not in compliance with the respective act cannot be legally operated as a for hire passenger vehicle in the state of Michigan until it is brought into compliance.
- 2) To bring a vehicle with an expired inspection into compliance, a certified carrier must do two things:
 - a. Per Section 17 of Act 432 of 1982, \$500 per expired vehicle must be paid to MDOT.
 - b. The vehicle(s) must pass a state approved inspection.

**THE \$500 FEE MUST BE PAID AND THE INSPECTION PASSED PRIOR TO A
VEHICLE BEING PLACED BACK INTO FOR HIRE PASSENGER SERVICE.**

- 3) Per Section 17 of Act 432 of 1982, all certificates of authority granted by MDOT expire on the last day of February each year and on March 1 MDOT is required to revoke the certificate of authority of any carrier who has delinquent fees. Therefore, if you have not paid the \$500 fee for any expired vehicle by the last day of February of each year, you will be considered revoked and will have to register as a new applicant per Section 13 of Act 432 and pay the \$300 filing fee in addition to the \$500 fee for each vehicle with an expired inspection and \$25 fee for each vehicle that was in good standing as of the revocation.
- 4) When an inspection has expired, the vehicle will be marked as such in MDOT's Bus and Limousine Regulatory Information System (BLRIS). This system is accessed by the police to determine if a specific company **and** a specific vehicle is being operated legally.
- 5) If a certified carrier has remaining buses in compliance with Act 432, the company will remain in the active carriers list until March 1 and your company name will continue to appear on the Authorized Carriers list on MDOT's website. However, any vehicle with an expired inspection may not be used as part of your certified operations.

- 6) If a certified carrier does not have any vehicles in compliance with the Act, BLRIS will remove the company from the active carriers list and the company name will not appear on MDOT's Authorized Carriers list on MDOT website.
- 7) When the vehicle is brought back into compliance with the Act (i.e., a state approved inspection and payment of the \$500 per bus fee), BLRIS will be updated to indicate that the vehicle (and carrier, if applicable) is in good standing and can legally be operated in Michigan.

Important Reminders Regarding Inspections

- The company is responsible for keeping track of when vehicle inspections expire. Make sure you keep copies of all inspections and all paperwork received from MDOT.
- The company is responsible for contacting the MDOT inspector to arrange the inspection. Contact must be made **at least** one month prior to the inspection expiration date and all fees must be paid **prior** to making the appointment for inspection.
- As a courtesy, MDOT will send a notice one month prior to the expiration of a vehicle inspection. If you do not receive this notification it **does not** absolve your company from your obligation to have the inspection done on time. We will **not** send a reminder or an invoice.

Vehicles in Out-Of-Service Status

Vehicles may be placed temporarily out of service using MDOT form 3088 "Bus Roster Update" which can be found on the MDOT website (www.michigan.gov/mdot) . However, placing a vehicle in the Out-of Service status **does not** remove the requirement for the vehicle to pass an inspection prior to the previous one expiring. Once a specific vehicle has been registered under Act 432, that vehicle must pass a safety inspection every 12 months to avoid the \$500 Fee for Expired Inspections, unless you have prior written approval from MDOT. To obtain written approval to remove a vehicle from service **and** allow the inspection to lapse, you must submit a request in writing to MDOT at least 30 calendar days before the inspection is to expire. The request must detail out the extenuating circumstances preventing the vehicle from passing inspection (e.g., very recent accident, very recent major component failure, etc.). You must be able to supply proof that the circumstances could not have been prevented. Requests should be submitted to MDOT at:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Motor Bus Regulatory Unit
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
Fax: (517) 241-0127

Without such prior approval, if a vehicle has been taken out of service and the inspection expires, the \$500 fee will be applied on the first day of the following the month in which the inspection expires and must be paid before that vehicle can be returned to service.